

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for clamping together in a stack at least one tray adapted to hold a plurality of integrated circuits in pockets disposed therein and a cover, the apparatus comprising:

a base forming a bottom of a channel, the channel having a first opening opposite a second opening, each opening allowing for the insertion and removal of the stack;

first and second restraining segments attached to the base that together with the base form a channel structure, wherein the channel structure restricts substantial movement of the stack both transverse to a length of the channel and perpendicular to a plane of the base; and

at least two pressure members attached to the channel structure, ~~wherein~~ each pressure member having a slit between the base and a side of the pressure member, wherein the pressure members apply a force ~~applies pressure~~ on a portion of the perimeter of the stack to clamp the stack together ~~between each of the pressure members and a portion of the channel structure,~~ to prevent movement of the tray independent of the cover and to retain the integrated circuits disposed within the pockets of the tray.

2. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the at least two pressure members apply pressure to the stack, and include:

a first resilient member extending from the base on one end of the channel; and

a second resilient member extending from the base on a second end of the channel that is opposite the one end of the channel.

3. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first and second restraining segments comprise parallel walls extending upward from the base; and

a protrusion attached to each wall above the base and extending inwards towards the channel so as to extend over a portion of the perimeter of the stack when the stack is inserted in the channel.

4. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the stack is clamped together between the protrusions and the two pressure members,

wherein the at least two pressure members comprise:

a first resilient member extending from the base on one end of the channel; and

a second resilient member extending from the base on a second end of the channel that is opposite the one end of the channel.

Claims 5 - 7 (withdrawn)

8. (Original) The apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the apparatus is injection molded in one piece using an injection molding material.

9. (Previously presented) The apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the at least two pressure members each are disposed in a first plane different than a second plane formed by a surface of the channel structure.

10. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the first and second restraining segments each comprise:
parallel walls extending upward from the base; and

a protrusion attached to each wall above the base and extending inwards towards the channel so as to extend over a portion of the perimeter of the stack when the stack is inserted in the channel.

11. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the stack is clamped together between the protrusions and the two pressure members,

wherein the at least two pressure members include:

a first resilient member extending from the base on one end of the channel; and

a second resilient member extending from the base on a second end of the channel that is opposite the one end of the channel.

Claims 12 - 13 (Withdrawn)

Claims 14 - 15 (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for clamping together in a stack at least one tray and a cover, the apparatus comprising:

~~horizontal restraining means for restraining the stack of at least one tray and cover laterally in one direction;~~

~~vertical restraining means for restraining the stack in a vertical direction; and~~

~~pressure means for application of a force to urge the stack into contact with a portion of the vertical restraining means, wherein the pressure means is configured for applying the force to a perimeter of the stack~~

a base forming a bottom of a channel, the channel allowing for the insertion and removal of the stack;

first and second restraining segments attached to the base that together with the base form a channel structure, wherein the channel structure restricts substantial movement of the stack both transverse to a length of the channel and perpendicular to a plane of the base; and at least two pressure members attached to the channel structure, each pressure member having a slit between the base and a side of the pressure member, wherein the pressure members apply a force in an upward direction relative to the base on a portion of the perimeter of the stack, to prevent movement of the tray independent of the cover.

17. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16 wherein:
the first and second restraining segments comprise parallel walls extending upward from the base; and
a protrusion attached to each wall above the base and extending inwards towards the channel so as to extend over a portion of the perimeter of the stack when the stack is inserted in the channel ~~horizontal~~
~~restraining means includes first and second side walls spaced apart to form a channel; and~~
~~the vertical restraining means includes a base and first and second protrusions, each protrusion extending inwards from the first and second walls.~~

18. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the pressure means is attached to the base.

19. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the pressure means includes a first resilient member disposed at a first end of

the channel and a second resilient member disposed at a second end of the channel.

Claims 20 -22 (withdrawn)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 1 wherein said pressure is additionally applied to a non-perimeter area.

25. (Original) An apparatus as recited in claim 16 wherein a force is additionally applied to a non-perimeter area.

26. (Cancelled)

27. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising flexible retainers attached to the base to assist in securing a stack within the apparatus.

28. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for clamping together in a stack at least one tray adapted to hold a plurality of integrated circuits in pockets disposed therein and a cover, the apparatus comprising:

a base having an outer edge that is linear along its entire surface and forming a bottom of a channel, the channel allowing for the insertion and removal of the stack;

first and second restraining segments attached to the base that together with the base form a channel structure; and

at least two pressure members attached to the channel structure for applying a force in an upward direction relative to the base, wherein each

pressure member applies pressure on a portion of the perimeter of the stack to clamp the stack together between each of the pressure members and part of the channel structure.

29. Cancel

30. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising protrusions that extend from each restraining segment.

31. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the stack is clamped together between the protrusions and the two pressure members, and wherein the two pressure members are located on a longitudinal axis orthogonal to a wall of the channel structure.

32. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the first and second restraining segments each comprise:

parallel walls extending upward from the base; and
a protrusion attached to each wall above the base and extending inwards towards the channel so as to extend over a portion of the perimeter of the stack when the stack is inserted in the channel.

33. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 28, wherein said apparatus is a unitary assembly.